The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend THOMAS GOMOLA, of Leesburg Presbyterian Church, Volant, offered the following prayer:

O wonderful God, as we come together at this time and in this place, we fully acknowledge that You are the Lord of all times and of all places. May You bless all of the elected Members and their staffs, and we thank You for their service to this State. We also ask Your blessings upon the visitors who are present.

As we go about our work and activities today, may we all seek quiet moments, where we might hear Your voice, feel Your presence, and be open to the leading in Your way. May You bless the personal lives of those here and the lives of their families as well. Be with them during times together and times of separation.

We thank You for the gift of this day and for the hearing of our prayers. It is in the name of the great and eternal God that we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Thomas Gomola, his wife, Reverend Jane Gomola, and his son, David, who are the guests today of Senator Orie, who wishes to announce that Reverend Gomola and his family reside in Senator Robbins' district, but the Leesburg Presbyterian Church is in Senator Orie's district. We are blessed to have them for the past 2 days.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

SB 721 (Pr. No. 933) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act, further providing for real estate appraiser certification required, for powers and duties of board, for application and qualifications, for reciprocity, for certification renewal and record, for disciplinary and corrective measures, for rein-

statement, for reporting of multiple certification, for surrender of suspended or revoked certificate, for penalties, for injunctive relief and for scope of practice.

SB 755 (Pr. No. 831)

An Act amending the act of May 11, 1889 (P.L.188, No.210), entitled "A further supplement to an act, entitled 'An act to establish a board of wardens for the Port of Philadelphia, and for the regulation of pilots and pilotage, and for other purposes,' approved March twenty-ninth, one thousand eight hundred and three, and for regulating the rates of pilotage and number of pilots," further providing for certain charges.

Senator M.J. WHITE, from the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy, reported the following bills:

SB 782 (Pr. No. 876)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1984 (P.L.688, No.147), known as the Radiation Protection Act, further providing for definitions, for powers of Environmental Quality Board, for licensing and registration fees, for nuclear facility and transport fees, for creation of special funds, for response program and for transportation of radioactive material; and making repeals.

SB 815 (Pr. No. 909)

An Act amending the act of July 6, 1989 (PL. 169, No.32), known as the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act, further providing for underground storage tank environmental cleanup program and for underground storage tank pollution prevention program.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Piccola.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Piccola.

Senator MELLOW. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Washington.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Mellow requests a legislative leave for Senator Washington.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator PILEGGI asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator WONDERLING, for today's Session, for personal reasons.
SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of April 16, 2007, and April 17, 2007, are now in print.

A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journals of the Sessions of April 16, 2007, and April 17, 2007.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

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Boscola
Browne
Brubaker
Corman
Costa
Dinniman
Earll
Eichelberger
Erickson
Ferro
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Fontana
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O'Pake
Orie
Piccola
Pileggi
Pippy
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Regola
Rhoades
Scarnati
Stack
Stout

Tartaglione
Tomlinson
Vance
Washington
Wauga
White
White
White
Williams
Williams
Williams
Wozniak

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
GUESTS OF SENATOR DONALD C. WHITE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Don White.

Senator D. WHITE. Madam President, on this May Day event, I am pleased to introduce Mr. Chris Peters and 13 of his senior students from Marion Center High School, as well as one junior, and Mrs. Sandy Kinter, a teacher at Marion Center School District.

His students participated in the Stock Market Game Challenge, which is a 10-week simulation of Wall Street trading. Participants invest a hypothetical $100,000 in common stocks listed on the Nasdaq, Amex, and New York Stock Exchange. They research stocks, study how the financial markets work, choose their portfolios, manage budgets, follow companies in the news, and make decisions whether to buy, sell, or hold.

I am pleased to tell you that these students finished the challenge in the plus column in their portfolio. I am very proud to have them down here from Indiana County, and I ask the Senate to extend its usual warm welcome to Mr. Chris Peters, Ms. Sandy Kinter, and the students from Marion Center High School.

The PRESIDENT. Would Mr. Chris Peters, Ms. Sandy Kinter, and all the students from Marion Center High School please rise so we can give you a nice warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I have the privilege to introduce some very special guests visiting the Capitol today from my district. The Houseman at Heart Seniors Group, who are seated in the gallery, wanted to observe the Senate in Session.

This group of seniors has been getting together for over 20 years and continues to remain active in our community. I am thrilled that they made the trip to Harrisburg today, and I ask the Senate to give them its usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Will our lovely seniors from Philadelphia please stand so we can give you a nice warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR MICHAEL J. FOLMER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Madam President, today I would like to introduce Galina Summers, a third grader at Harding Elementary in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. She is a very active young lady, a finalist in the Miss Preteen Pennsylvania contest, and she volunteers in pet therapy and with the United Day Care Giving. She is on student council, and is very active in her church. She is here today with her parents, Reda and Dave Thomas, and her younger sister, Lila, and I would like the Senate to give its usual warm welcome to Galina, her sister, and her parents.

The PRESIDENT. Would Galina, Lila, and her parents rise. Welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ELISABETH J. BAKER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Madam President, I would like to introduce Jill Konopka, a reporter and anchorperson with WBRE television in Wilkes-Barre. She is job shadowing with me today here in the Senate, and I ask my colleagues to give her a warm welcome. Thank you, Jill.

The PRESIDENT. Would Jill Konopka please rise.

(Applause.)

SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators COSTA and BROWNE, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 105, entitled:

A Resolution honoring Anthony W. Salomone, Executive Director of the Public Employee Retirement Commission, upon his retirement.
On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, the resolution that was just read across the desk recognizes a person who has been a great asset to this Commonwealth. We have had the privilege of working with Mr. Anthony W. Salomone, affectionately known as Tony to many of us, over the past several years. He has served as the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Commission, and as the Senate Democratic Caucus appointment to this commission for the past several years. I have had the pleasure of not only working with Tony, but this fine group of individuals who are responsible for reviewing legislation that we propose in this building that concern changes to our retirement system here not only for State employees, but also for school, county, and municipal employees, and also for advising the General Assembly on various matters.

Madam President, sometimes in advising us, Tony has had the unenviable responsibility of reminding us that our course of action that we selected was not the best. He has always provided significant and helpful guidance to accomplish this goal. For more years than he would like to remember, and probably cares to remember, Tony Salomone has served as the executive director of that commission and has performed his job extraordinarily well and admirably ensuring that the staff of the commission and the commission's work is of the highest quality.

I would briefly like to touch upon a few of the high points of Tony's career. He was appointed to the Public Employee Retirement Commission on June 10, 1986. During his tenure, the commission issued more than 400 actuarial notes on proposed public employee pension legislation to assure their accuracy and actuarial viability. He also did 13 policy development reports on retirement needs of public employees, and 11 municipal pension plan status reports to summarize findings of the data collected in accordance with the mandates of the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act.

Madam President, Tony began his State employment on June 17, 1971, with the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs as a research analyst and later advanced in the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs as a municipal administration consultant in the central regional office, and then as chief in the Municipal Consulting Division in the Bureau of Local Government Services, and further as director of policy development in the executive office, until becoming executive director at the Public Employee Retirement Commission in 1986. Madam President, through his knowledge of the commission's principles, policies, and programs, Tony Salomone ensured the effective administrative operation of the commission by providing administrative, management, and technical support to both professional and support staff members.

I ask all of my Senate colleagues who had the opportunity and the privilege to work with Tony over the past several years to stand, acknowledge him, and acknowledge his very fine career that he has displayed for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, more specifically, the Public Employee Retirement Commission, and wish him well in the near future. Madam President, Tony is in the gallery, and I ask him to please stand so we can acknowledge him.

The PRESIDENT. On the resolution recognizing Tony Salomone for all of his many years of service to the Public Employee Retirement System, thank you very much, Tony. Please stand so we can recognize you.

(Applause.)

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?
A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Madam President, I ask the Democratic Members to report to our caucus room immediately upon the recess of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR
BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 73 (Pr. No. 92) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and codifying Title 61 (Penal and Correctional Institutions) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for temporary release from county correctional institutions, for parole without board supervision, for judicial power to release inmates and for transfers of inmates needing medical care; further providing for State intermediate punishment; providing for other criminal provisions; amending the heading of Title 61; adding definitions, provisions relating to general administration of correctional institutions, State correctional institutions, county correctional institutions, the Philadelphia County Prison, house of detention for untried inmates and witnesses, inmate labor, medical services, visitation, motivational boot camp, execution procedure and method, miscellaneous matters relating thereto, probation and parole generally, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, CountyProbation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training, and correctional institution interstate compacts; and making repeals relating to codification.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?
The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

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A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

HB 85 (Pr. No. 109) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to the County of Lackawanna Transit System Authority (COLTS), certain lands situate in the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, in exchange for a certain tract of land from COLTS situate in the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

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NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

SB 318 (Pr. No. 760) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, further providing for the Pennsylvania State Police; and making a repeal.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

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NAY-1

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A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

SB 331 (Pr. No. 366) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of robbery.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

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NAY-0
A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 354 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 450 (Pr. No. 497) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for criminal homicide; and providing for criminal homicide of a law enforcement officer and for violence against a law enforcement officer.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

Senator ARMSTRONG offered the following amendment No. A0310:

Amend Sec. 1 (Sec. 714), page 1, line 12, by striking out "prosecution" and inserting: prosecution.

Amend Sec. 1 (Sec. 714), page 1, line 14, by striking out all of said line and inserting: offense. An agency shall not make a payment on behalf of or reimburse a member of an agency for a fine or cost resulting from the member's violation of this section.

On the question,

Shall the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 580 (Pr. No. 625) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, permitting use of dogs in hunting for wild turkeys.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

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A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

SB 635 (Pr. No. 927) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L.1656, No.581), known as The Borough Code, further providing for officers to be elected, for election of assessors, for filling vacancies in elective borough offices, for powers of assessors and for duplicate assessments; and making related repeals.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

SB 636 (Pr. No. 928) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 21, 1943 (P.L.571, No.254), known as The Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, eliminating office of assessor in boroughs and townships of the first class; making conforming amendments; and making repeals.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

SB 650 (Pr. No. 680) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, further providing for special occasion permits.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.
NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted 
"aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.
Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to
the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 699 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its
order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 709 (Pr. No. 929) -- The Senate proceeded to consider-
ation of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331),
known as The First Class Township Code, further providing for elected
officers enumerated, for vacancies in general, for the corporate power
of first class townships being vested in the board of township commis-
sioners, for elected officers in townships of the first class and for addi-
tions and revisions to duplicates; and making related repeals.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as
required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of
the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

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NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted
"aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.
Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to
the House of Representatives for concurrence.
Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SB 796 (Pr. No. 888) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SB 797 (Pr. No. 889) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 34, SB 537, SB 704, SB 726, SB 729 and SB 777 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 798 (Pr. No. 923) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 92, ADOPTED

Senator PILEGGI, without objection, called up from page 5 of the Calendar, Senate Resolution No. 92, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 20, 2007, as "MRSA Awareness Week."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Brubaker.

Senator BRUBAKER, Madam President, MRSA is a type of infection that is resistant to treatment with the usual antibiotics. The proportion of these infections in the United States has increased from 2 percent in 1974 to 63 percent in 2004.

Individuals affected with MRSA are more likely to have longer and more expensive hospital stays. Anyone, not just an infected patient, can be a vehicle for the transmission of MRSA. MRSA is a preventable disease when appropriate hand washing and appropriate first aid to open wounds are followed. Therefore, I support the Senate Resolution before us today.

Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?
A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator RHOADES, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bills:

SB 805 (Pr. No. 934) (Amended)
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for the educational assistance program.

SB 806 (Pr. No. 935) (Amended)
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for an annual report on the technology grant program.

SB 807 (Pr. No. 936) (Amended)
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for an annual report on the elementary science curriculum grant programs.

SB 808 (Pr. No. 937) (Amended)
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for an annual report on the high school curriculum enhancement grant programs.

SB 813 (Pr. No. 938) (Amended)
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for an annual report on the Education Technology Program.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator RHOADES, from the Committee on Education, reported the following resolutions:

SR 91 (Pr. No. 871)
A Resolution urging the President and Congress to increase funding for special education programs provided by the states to the level authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SR 101 (Pr. No. 919)
A Resolution designating May 8, 2007, as "Early Care and Education Action Day."
The resolutions will be placed on the Calendar.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators M. WHITE, MUSTO, LOGAN, COSTA, ORIE, STOUT, FOLMER, LAVALLE, RAFFERTY, PIPPY, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, KASUNIC, BOSCOLA, ERICKSON, BRUBAKER, ROBBINS, WASHINGTON, PILEGGI, TOMLINSON, OPAKE, WONDERLING, GREENLEAF, EARLL, ARMSTRONG, BROWNE and D. WHITE, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 106, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 6 through 12, 2007, as "Drinking Water Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

Senators VANCE, PILEGGI, WASHINGTON, EARLL, ARMSTRONG, BOSCOLA, BROWNE, BRUBAKER, COSTA, ERICKSON, FOLMER, FONTANA, FUMO, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, KASUNIC, LAVALLE, LOGAN, MADIGAN, MELLOW, MUSTO, OPAKE, ORIE, PICCOLA, PIPPY, PUNT, RAFFERTY, REGOLA, ROBBINS, SCARNATI, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON, WAUGH, M. WHITE, C. WILLIAMS, WONDERLING, WOZNIAK, STACK, KITCHEN and D. WHITE, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 107, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 6 through 12, 2007, as "Nurses Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Cumberland, Senator Vance.

Senator VANCE. Madam President, I am very pleased to offer the resolution that designates the week of May 6 through 12, 2007 as "Nurses Week" in Pennsylvania. According to the projections released this February by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nurses top the list of the 10 occupations with the largest projected job growth between 2002 and 2012, so I am very proud to offer this resolution and ask for its immediate adoption.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senators WONDERLING, ROBBINS, D. WHITE, PIPPY, PUNT, FERLO, MADIGAN, KASUNIC, LOGAN, STOUT, BOSCOLA, REGOLA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, ERICKSON, OPAKE, LAVALLE, DINNIMAN, WASHINGTON, MELLOW, MUSTO, PILEGGI, WAUGH, FOLMER, MCILHINNEY, TOMLINSON, GREENLEAF, EARLL, PICCOLA, RHOADES, C. WILLIAMS, FUMO, STACK, ARMSTRONG and BROWNE, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 108, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 1, 2007, as "Silver Star Families of America Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Madam President, I am very pleased today to offer this resolution on behalf of Senator Wonderling. Today, May 1, is a very important day in Pennsylvania. Today is the day we recognize Silver Star families in our Commonwealth. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has always proudly honored the sacrifice of men and women in the United States armed services. Silver Star Families of America was formed to make sure that we, as a people, remember the sacrifice of our wounded by designating and manufacturing a Silver Star banner and flag.

To date, the Silver Star Families of America have freely given out hundreds of Silver Star banners to the wounded and their families. The members of the Silver Star Families of America have worked tirelessly to provide the wounded of this Commonwealth and country with Silver Star banners, flags, and care packages. The sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to ensure every time someone sees a Silver Star banner in a window or a Silver Star flag flying, that they remember those who have sacrificed for their State and country.

The people of Pennsylvania wish that the sacrifice of so many servicemembers never be forgotten, and I ask the Senate to designate May 1, 2007, as "Silver Star Families of America Day" in Pennsylvania to honor its commitment to our wounded service men and women.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senator BOSCOLA, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 109, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 13 through 19, 2007, as "Food Allergy Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

Senators MUSTO, M. WHITE, FERLO, KASUNIC, BOSCOLA, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, OPAKE, MELLOW, FONTANA, LOGAN, COSTA, MCILHINNEY, C. WILLIAMS, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, PILEGGI, EARLL, GORDNER, STOUT, FOLMER, STACK, WASHINGTON, GREENLEAF, PUNT, ORIE, WONDERLING and D. WHITE, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 110, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2007 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.
CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ben Kraft by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cody Richard Arnold and to Ethan F. W. Cleaver by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the members of St. Andrew United Methodist Church of New Berlinville by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anna May Pierce by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Betty Bartholomew, Emma Evans, Betty Gangaway, Nancy Swarhout, Laura Lonchar, Carolyn McCurdy and to the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Good Will Fire Company No. 4 of Pottsville by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Scott Charles Thomas Burnham by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kaitlyn McCall Pieri by Senators Stout and Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jane Hines, Ashley Marie Paules, Karen Snyder, Andrea Mikos, Sara Staub, Joseph Warner and to Thomas Neff, Jr., by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Blake Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Precious, Merrill A. Moses, Donald Spinetti, Raymond Blaine, Kenneth C. Minnear, James Smith, Mark Maier and to Aysha Harrer Dellen by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph M. Manko, Episcopal Academy Girls' Squash Team of Merion and to the Conshohocken Free Library by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. David Burt and Dr. Lorri Burt, Erik L. Ritter and to Nicholas Godown by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ann Torledsky, Stephanie Stohon, Charlotte Aubrey, Rita Kreger, Shelby McHenry and to Karen Richards by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Susan M. Connell by Senator Corman.

POSTHUMOUS CITATIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following citations, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

A posthumous citation honoring the late Lisa Waller was extended to the family by Senator Piccola.

A posthumous citation honoring the late William B. Dunn was extended to the family by Senator M.J. White.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BRUBAKER. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to.

The bills were as follows:

SB 721, SB 755, SB 782 SB 805, SB 806, SB 807, SB 808, SB 813, and SB 815.

And said bills having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, today I introduced a bill that would make patients safer in our hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care settings by stopping the regular use of mandatory overtime as a staffing solution in health care. Every day nurses and other caregivers in hospitals, nursing homes, and State facilities are forced to work past their regularly scheduled shift. This mandate may come without warning and extend for a few hours or an entire second shift. If health care-givers refuse to work extra hours, they face discipline, termination, or even loss of their professional license. Because mandatory overtime comes with little or no warning, caregivers cannot prepare for longer shifts. They are forced to work whether or not they are well rested enough to continue safely, regardless of their personal and family responsibilities. Nurses and other caregivers are committed to their patients first and foremost. They also know their limits. Asking a nurse to volunteer for extra hours is a completely different scenario than mandating them to work whether they feel competent to continue or not.

Restrictions and prohibitions on mandatory overtime have been passed in 11 States, including Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, and our neighboring States of New Jersey, West Virginia, and Maryland. It is time for Pennsylvania to join these States in protecting our patients and respecting health caregivers.

It is well known that physical and mental exhaustion can affect one's ability to think clearly and act safely. Truck drivers, airline pilots, and flight attendants all have restrictions on the number of hours they may work to protect the public safety. Yet, there are no restrictions for health care workers who may be making life or death decisions and observations. Extensive research has demonstrated the link between overtime and health care and medical errors.

The Institute of Medicine estimated hospital deaths due to medical errors as 44,000 to 98,000 annually, and research has confirmed that long work hours and overtime contribute to medical errors. They find that shift durations of greater than 12 hours are significantly associated with increased errors among nurses.

A 2004 study by the University of Pennsylvania researcher, Ann Rogers, found that the risk of errors increased when nurses worked overtime or worked more than 40 hours per week. In
fact, the risk of error was three times greater when a nurse worked a 12.5 hour shift or longer. As far back as 15 years ago, a 1992 study in the American Journal of Public Health showed that nurses who worked variable schedules, including mandatory overtime, were twice as likely to report errors or accidents related to sleepiness, and at least two studies have linked infection outbreaks at hospitals to overtime work.

Mandatory overtime also has real consequences for caregivers and their families. Not surprisingly, in a 2004 report by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee for the General Assembly, job dissatisfaction was cited as a major contributing factor to the problems of recruiting and retaining nurses, and mandating overtime is among the key factors identified by various studies as contributing to job dissatisfaction among nurses. The dangerous practice of mandatory overtime is contributing to what the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration predicts will be a shortage of over one million nurses nationally by the year 2020. Fewer nurses are willing to work in health care under the current conditions, and fewer young people are attracted to nursing as a profession.

In the Commonwealth's most recent published survey of registered nurses renewing their licensees, 13.6 percent of respondents, more than one out of eight, reported having mandatory overtime within the prior 2 weeks. Nurses who reported such mandatory overtime were nearly twice as likely to express job dissatisfaction. Even with ever-increasing recruitment campaigns and hiring bonuses, one out of five licensed registered nurses in Pennsylvania has left bedside nursing and is not currently working in health care. What will bring the nurses back? Ending mandatory overtime is one step in the right direction. The risk to patients, health care workers, and the industry are not limited to registered nurses. Every patient caregiver who is forced to work past the point of safety puts patients at risk. It is time we end mandatory overtime in Pennsylvania, except in the case of a true emergency.

Governor Rendell has put forth a vigorous Prescription for Pennsylvania plan. That plan recognizes many issues facing health care providers, and I suggest that none are ever more important than the issue of mandatory overtime. We need to make this proposal part of the Governor's overall plan and stop putting Pennsylvania's health care workers and patients at risk.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Fumo.

Senator FUMO. Madam President, on this day 4 years ago, standing beneath a red, white, and blue banner that proclaimed "Mission Accomplished," George Bush announced that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. He dressed himself up in a flight suit like a live GI Joe doll, and had flown onto the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln on a fighter jet to make a tailhook landing, even though the Lincoln was anchored just 30 miles off the shore of California and was easily reachable by the Presidential helicopter.

On the deck, he told the American people, quote, "In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed," end of quote.

But nothing about it was real. The guy who dressed up in a Top Gun flight suit had never seen combat in his life. The war that he instigated was far from over, and the rationale for the war was fabricated propaganda. The scene on the carrier deck was nothing more than an elaborately staged photo-op. Six weeks into the war with Iraq, the Bush administration was out of touch with reality then, and it remains out of touch with reality today.

So on this, the anniversary of "Mission Accomplished," I think it is appropriate for us to take a realistic look at the condition of our nation's military - the real soldiers, dressed in real uniforms who are facing real danger, and sometimes paying with their lives in Iraq. George Bush keeps telling us this war is all about keeping us safe in a dangerous world, and leaving Iraq would weaken us in the face of terror, so it is only fair that we examine our current military readiness.

It should concern all Americans that most Armed Forces experts believe we are steadily declining in military power the longer we stay in Iraq. With no end in sight, and unless the Congress can force the Bush administration to accept the deadline for withdrawal, we are slowly draining this nation's military strength. Despite the bravery and the sacrifice of our soldiers, there is now real doubt concerning our Army's ability to accomplish other missions in the future, even the most basic mission of defending our country.

As former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a soldier for 35 years, said in December of 2006, just a few months ago, quote, "The active Army is about broken," end of quote.

Last month, Time magazine examined the State of our Army. It began the article with the tale of a young man from Montana who enlisted straight out of high school last June, at the age of 17. After basic training, he was assigned to a unit bound for Iraq, even though he did not have time to receive the full measure of training for that mission. He was given a quick 10-day course covering weapons, first aid, and Iraqi culture. Just a week after arriving in Iraq, he was killed in combat with Sunni insurgents. The article went on to reveal that while his history may not be typical, it is also not rare.

Our military has been strained by the 4-year war in Iraq, a war now longer than World War II. The rush to carry out Bush's order to send additional troops more quickly to Iraq is forcing two of the five new brigades bound for the war to skip standard training. These soldiers are not getting the benefit of participating in war games in the wide Mojave Desert, where they simulate conditions in Iraq: Lawrence Korb, a former Pentagon personnel chief, said, quote, "Given the new policy of having troops among the Iraqis, they should be giving our young soldiers more training, not less," end of quote.

America is now protected by an all-volunteer Army, and the longer the futile war in Iraq drags on, the problem of enlistment and reenlistment gets even worse. Units are now being sent into Iraq without even a year at home, compared to the 2 years that units have been traditionally given. On April 11, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that deployments would increase from 12 to 15 months. Andrew Krepinevich, a retired Army officer who advises his old service, said, quote, "This is the first time we have had a volunteer Army on an extended deployment. A lot of canaries are dropping dead in the mine," end of quote. This result is an Army with less training, more stress, and deteriorating equipment.
The Time Magazine article said that half of the Army's 43 combat brigades are now deployed overseas, with the remainder recovering from their latest deployment and preparing for the next one. For the first time in decades, the Army's, quote, "ready brigade," a unit of the famed 82nd Airborne Division, pruned to parachute into a hot spot anywhere in the world within 72 hours, is a luxury the U.S. Army can no longer afford. All its forces are already dedicated to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Repeated combat tours have a huge impact on families, General Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, told Congress in February. Those deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan more than once, 170,000 so far, have a 50-percent increase in acute combat stress over those who have been deployed only once. That stress is what contributes to post-traumatic stress disorder, according to an Army study. Quote, "Their wives are saying, I know you are proud of what you are doing, but we have got to get out of here," end of quote, says Barry McCaffrey, a retired four-star general.

The Army Times reported in December that for the first time, more troops surveyed disagreed with the President's handling of the war than approved it, 42 percent to 35 percent, that is from the Army troops. It also reported that over the past 2 years, the number of troops surveyed who think victory is likely has fallen from 83 percent to 50 percent. Army suicides have risen from 51 in 2001 to 91 last year. Desertions are also climbing.

Bush says he wants to boost the size of the Army. Already, however, the Army is making its recruitment quotas only because it has lowered its standards for education, enlistment age, criminal background, medical problems, and standardized test scores. That does not bode well for the quality of the Army in the future. Because it is now more difficult to retain veteran soldiers, the Army is increasing cash bonuses for reenlistment for combat duty. Still, the Army estimates that over the next 6 years it will fall short by 3,000 mid-level officers. For example, it has only 83 percent of the majors it needs. Both the national totals of ROTC graduates and the number of West Point graduates fell short of their goals last year.

Much of these problems stem from the realization among a demoralized American public that we are in a war that we should have never started. Much of it is also due to the Bush administration believing that the war was finished and the mission had been accomplished after only 6 weeks, and not preparing our military properly for the long, hard fight that would lay ahead.

Many Bush administration supporters say that those who press for an end to this war are guilty of not supporting our troops. I say there is no better way to support our troops than to remove them from a situation where they senselessly serve as targets in the midst of a lethal civil war. I say there is no better way to support our military than to get it out of Iraq, so we can begin to repair its strength, and to rebuild a fighting machine that will be able in the future to fulfill its true mission of protecting this country. If the mission was accomplished on May 1, 2003, why are we still there?

Now I would ask all of you to honor the memory of two more soldiers from Pennsylvania who died while carrying out the mission that was assigned to them in Iraq. Sergeant Jae S. Moon, 21, of Levittown, died December 25, in Baghdad, of wounds suffered when an IED detonated near his vehicle while on patrol.

Sergeant Moon was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

And Sergeant John T. Bubeck, 25, of Collegeville, died December 26, of wounds suffered when an IED detonated near his vehicle during combat operations the previous day in Baghdad. Sergeant Bubeck was assigned to the 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. They are among the now 3,351 American soldiers killed so far in Iraq, another 24,912 have been wounded, and the number of fatalities in combat since May 1, 2003, the day of "Mission Accomplished," the number of fatalities since that day is 2,629.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. May I please ask all of the Senate and staff to stand up for a moment of silence to Sergeant Jae S. Moon, 21, of Levittown, Pennsylvania, and Sergeant John T. Bubeck, 25, of Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Sergeant JAE S. MOON and Sergeant JOHN T. BUBECK.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, on Thursday, April 26, 2007, Pittsburgh was named the most livable city in America in the 25th anniversary edition of the Places Rated Almanac. Pittsburgh was also named the most livable city in 1985, and is in fact the only city that has consistently been recognized among the top 20 most livable places for all the 25 years. The ranking is based on a survey of the seven-county Pittsburgh region, and the region was graded on nine very specific criteria: housing affordability, transportation, jobs, education, climate, crime, health care, recreation, and cultural ambiance.

Pittsburgh ranked 29 out of 379 cities in education, and 21 in recreation. Madam President, Pennsylvania was also represented in this study with the high ranking by the city of Philadelphia, which ranked fifth, as well as San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; joining Pittsburgh in the top five.

Madam President, the good news does not stop there, however, with respect to Pittsburgh. Recently, Pittsburgh was also listed third on the list of major North American cities of the future in FiDi magazine, and this listing is based on criteria including economic potential, cost effectiveness, human resources, quality of life, infrastructure, business friendliness, and FiDi promotion strategies. Pittsburgh was ranked just behind the city of Chicago, as well as Toronto, and ahead of Atlanta, Baltimore, Montreal, Mexico City, Boston, and Miami.

Madam President, this third ranking, as I indicated, was broken down into several categories. Pittsburgh was ranked third in the top 10 major cities of the future, but more specifically, in the category of best infrastructure, Pittsburgh finished second, and they finished first again with major cities on the most cost effective cities in the country and in the world.

Madam President, I think it is important that we look behind the criteria that establishes a city as one of the best in the region and one of the best in the world to live. For example, the judging criteria for economic potential, some of the consideration they look at includes the percentage of population under the age of 25, the number of adult employment levels in 2005 for this particular
ranking, as well as the fiscal balances for those communities in those years during 2004 and 2005.

Madam President, with respect to cost effectiveness, it looks at issues such as office retail costs, office purchase costs, salaries of early level, mid-level, and senior level management. If it is human resources, the criteria that they review consists of the number of university-level educational institutions in the city, as well as the region, the research that is being done in that city, and the number of world top 200 universities located in that region. Madam President, as you well know, and my colleagues know, the city of Pittsburgh is blessed to have two of such universities, the University of Pittsburgh, as well as Carnegie Mellon University, as well as extremely high quality universities such as Robert Morris, Point Park College, Duquesne University, Chatham, and Carlow, as well.

Also, the areas of quality of life, they look at the housing, the housing stock, and the cost of housing. They look at the public and private partnerships that exist with respect to health care facilities, schools, including elementary schools and grade schools. If it is infrastructure, they look at the very important strategic links, the transportation links, to allow individuals to utilize and businesses to utilize the infrastructure system that exists there. If it is business friendliness, Madam President, they look at basic level of corporate taxes, they look at the number of out-of-State companies doing business in our Commonwealth and in our region, and they look at the number of jobs created in the cities and investments that were made during that particular year. Madam President, all of these criteria mean that the city of Pittsburgh is performing and our region is performing at an exceptionally high rate, and it is very wonderful to hear that.

Madam President, "To know Pittsburgh is to grow Pittsburgh," and that is one of the slogans that we now have been marketing. With the global economy and interconnected work force, businesses and families have more flexibility in where they are locating than ever before.

Why should they come to Pittsburgh, and why is Pittsburgh ranked number one in so many categories? Madam President, we have a nearly unmatched quality of life. We have affordable housing, where the average existing home in the Pittsburgh region sold for $118,000, or 43-percent below the national average. We have low cost of living. Our region's cost of living is 93 percent of the national average. It is a short commute. On average, Pittsburghers spend about 25 minutes per day commuting to work one way. For comparison, that is 18 percent less time than in Philadelphia, and 12 percent less time than in Boston. Safety, Madam President, this region has the lowest crime rate of the top 25 metropolitan areas in the country. High quality education, as I mentioned earlier, the region is home to 34 colleges and universities, including two, CMU and the University of Pittsburgh, that are consistently featured as among the best in the country, not by me, Madam President, but by U.S. News and World Report.

It is an attractive place for businesses to locate as well. Pittsburgh is centrally located within 500 miles of more than half of our U.S. population, and less than 90 flying minutes' time from 20 States and Canada. We have a world-class airport. The Pittsburgh International Airport has consistently been ranked among the top in the country by J.D. Power and Associates. The rivers and commerce, if that is what you look for in terms of your busi-ness, we have over 52 million tons of cargo shipped annually on Pittsburgh rivers, and that is the second busiest inland port in the country.

We are environmentally friendly as well. The city has the most certified green buildings in the country. Home to the largest businesses, Pittsburgh ranked sixth in the nation as home to Fortune 500 companies - Alcoa, Heinz, Mellon, PNC Financial Services, PPG, U.S. Steel, and Wesco Internationals. Madam President, we are also home to some of our growing businesses. More than 70 companies with $1 billion or more in sales operate in this region.

But we also have a unique, diverse, and fun community. If you enjoy the waterways, Madam President, Pittsburgh's three rivers provide 38 miles of downtown shoreline for recreation and fishing. If it is the ballpark you want to go to, PNC Park has been ranked as one of the best in the major leagues, not only by USA Today, but also by ESPN.com. If it is the theater that one enjoys, we have eight major theaters in Pittsburgh's downtown cultural district, and the Pittsburgh region has more theaters in a concentrated area than any other city in this country, except for New York City. We have one of the grandest views, as stated by USA Today, which covers the cityscape view, and Mount Washington is the second best view in America.

Madam President, there have been misconceptions about the city of Pittsburgh, and I would like to just take a moment to dispel some of those misconceptions. One of them is that young people are leaving the Pittsburgh region. Madam President, that is simply not true. We have kept young people, and we are working to attract more. In fact, our population in the 20-24 year age group has grown by 12 percent since 1998, less than 10 years. That compares favorably with Boston, which is always talked about as being a city that has been able to attract and maintain young folks. We are on par with Boston, which has grown its population in the same age group by just 4 percent over the same period.

Pittsburgh as a no-growth region is another myth that exists out there. The fact is, the region has added 300,000 jobs since its recent low point in 1983, and we have experienced overall job growth in 18 of those 22 years. Even more importantly, Madam President, in this past year alone, 150 companies have announced plans to add more than 10,000 jobs in this region in the coming years.

Madam President, it has been said that the Pittsburgh secondary education system is one that is in need of improvement. The fact is, the region's eleventh graders tested 4 percentage points higher than the rest of the State in reading, and 3 percentage points higher in math.

Madam President, while it is important to talk about these awards, there are a number of other awards that the city of Pittsburgh and our region have been able to enjoy over the past several years, and more specifically, over the past 18 months. One of them deals with voters at American Style magazine have named Pittsburgh the best arts destination in the country among mid-size cities. It is among the top 25 of the world's cleanest cities by Forbes magazine. According to Expansion magazine in 2007, we were ranked among America's 50 hottest cities for business relocation and expansion. We are also ranked the top city for geeks by Wired magazine, Madam President, which ranked
the geek-friendliness measures as proximity to top-ranked engineering schools, as well as the number of comic book stores in the city of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh has also been rated the number one place in the country for baby boomers, those individuals between 45 and 65, to find love and keep it. That ranking comes from Sperling's Best Places. According to Expo magazine, Pittsburgh is among the nation's 25 best bargain destinations.

Finally, Madam President, probably one of my favorite is that in 2006, Pittsburgh's original hot dogs in Oakland, and you know very well as well as I do, Madam President, has been ranked by AOL City Guide as America's best hot dogs and french fries.

Now, Madam President, all these rankings and acknowledgments, and there are series of them here, I could go on, are very, very important to the reputation of the city as we work to do more things, but as a General Assembly, as a region, as a city, we still have more to do. This is great news about the city that I just spoke about, but it was tempered a little bit today by the news that Pittsburgh remains the second most polluted city in America, ranking only behind Los Angeles. While that was disturbing news, Madam President, it reminds us that we have work to do in the General Assembly, and that our work is not done. Progress has been made, as shown by these designations by national publications I have spoken about, but we still have work to do on a number of issues.

Madam President, mass transit and transportation, our quality roads and bridges, our effective and efficient system of mass transit, are central for the continued economic success of the Pittsburgh region and also for our Commonwealth.

Regarding economic development, we must continue our success in attracting companies of the future. We have succeeded in bringing high-tech firms to the region, and we are a national leader of biomedical science and research, but we must continue to work to attract businesses and retain the bright minds that are educated at the fine universities in the Pittsburgh region and across the Commonwealth.

Regarding education, as I said a number of times in my remarks today, Madam President, we are fortunate to have outstanding universities and fine public schools, but we must continue to work to see that education of our children is a top priority.

Regarding the environment, Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania continue to cope with the environmental repercussions of the heavy industry that operated in our county, our community, and our Commonwealth. We can reduce the potential harmful impact of these environmental challenges with commonsense regulations.

Madam President, I commend the city of Pittsburgh on being named the most livable city in the United States, and for its third place ranking as a major North American city of the future, as well as for the number of other recognitions and honors they have received. While the Chamber should note these recognitions with pride, I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to recognize not only the good things that we have accomplished, but also to take the time to recognize those things that we must accomplish in order to keep our major city high on the list as one of the most livable cities.

Madam President, another saying that Pittsburgh has been using during the past several months, in addition to "To Know Pittsburgh is to Grow Pittsburgh," is, "Pittsburgh, imagine what you can do there." Madam President, I thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks about the honors received by the city of Pittsburgh.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Costa. I am sure you know that Senator Orie and I are both Pittsburghers, and we agree with you.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, I would not be the geek from Pittsburgh, that would be Senator Costa.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. It is a great place to be a geek though, nevertheless. Thank you, Senator Orie.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

May 1, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Bernard Carrozza, 314 Tarbert Drive, West Chester 19382, Chester County, Nineteenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of West Chester University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2011, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

May 1, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas Fillippo, 245 Mine Road, Malvern 19355, Chester County, Nineteenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of West Chester University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

May 1, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, J. Adam Matlawski, 309 Meadowbrooke Lane, Broomall 19008, Delaware County, Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of West Chester University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Carol Aichele, Malvern, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007

9:00 A.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on security at Pennsylvania's institutions of higher education) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

10:00 A.M. BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider House Bill No. 112) Room 8E-B East Wing

10:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 317, 431 and 740) Room 8E-A East Wing

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007

9:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 69, 137, 248, 346, 468 and 814) Room 8E-A East Wing

10:00 A.M. LABOR AND INDUSTRY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT (joint hearing related to the Uniform Construction Code) Sen. Maj. Caucus Rm.

10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE (public hearing to consider Health Care Acquired Infections) C A N C E L I E D

Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Orie.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:42 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.